



Powder House News

March/April 2023

COA Mission

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of seniors in the community by providing services, which include nutrition, health screening, education, and other programs to meet their needs.

COA Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m., March 28 and April 25.

Office Location

The Council on Aging office is located at the Town Offices, 23 Linden St., bottom floor, Room 118.

COA Members

Bob Blair, Co-Chair
Pat Wheeler, Co-Chair
Kate Bliss
Rachel Boyer
Wes Durant
Lori Fearebay
Karen Schultz

Phone

978-838-2750

Medical Equipment

The COA has a supply of medical equipment available. We accept donations of thoroughly clean equipment in good condition. Please consider donating your clean, used equipment so we can pass it on to someone in need. Contact Victoria Flynn at coadirector@townofberlin.com, or the COA phone 978-838-2750.

Transportation Services

Transportation is available Monday through Friday. Rider information forms are available on the Berlin town website under Boards & Committees / Council on Aging / Bus Services. Call 978-838-2750 for assistance.

From COA/Social Services Director Victoria Flynn

UMASS Community Needs Assessment

The UMASS Community Needs Assessment is in motion. We know that many of you did get the postcard with ways to complete the survey. Berliners aged 60 plus have been mailed a paper copy of the survey. Surveys can also be completed by going to https://umassboston.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dgLmRG6Oq3ed9XM?Q_CHL=qr. You can also complete the survey via phone by calling 617-287-7413.

New Staff

February 2023 brought the addition of Fire Chief Michael McQuillen and Town Treasurer Paul Redmond to Berlin's municipal leadership. We welcome them to Berlin and look forward to working with them this year.

Fraud Calls

Recently, a Berliner brought to my attention a common type of scam call. This caller starts out saying that your doctor has connected with this company to let you know that you are eligible for some medical equipment, gear, services, etc.

Generally speaking, if there is something that your provider thinks you will need, they will let you know and give you the option to accept or decline. Staff at your doctor's office may place orders or get insurance authorizations so you do not get stuck paying full costs. Please do not provide any personal information to a caller that you do not know.

If you ever get a call and you are wondering what benefits your health insurance offers, check the back of your health insurance card and call the toll-free number. If you ever have any questions, please reach out to the COA at 978-838-2750. There is a Senior Medicare Patrol line designated for people to call in scams so they can be logged and tracked to hopefully stop the scam. They can be reached at (888) 515-6565.

Town Warrants

The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to occur on Monday May 1st, 2023. If you or someone you know need an enlarged print warrant sheet or would like to request any other hearing/visual or physical considerations, please contact Mary at the Select Board office at 978-838-2442.

ADA Grant (Americans with Disabilities Act)

The Town of Berlin recently got approved for an ADA Grant for improvements to the town buildings to be done by June 30th. Please stay tuned to see what projects are under way.

May Day Baskets

We have a Berliner who is willing to teach other Berliners about making May Day baskets. The May Day basket intention is to have a basket full of candy and leave it with your best friend on May 1st (May Day). If you would be interested in attending a May Day basket class (either in-person or virtually through Zoom), please reach out to us at 978-838-2750.



Nashoba Neighbors

BERLIN • LANCASTER • BOLTON

Attention Seniors
in Bolton, Berlin, and Lancaster
Nashoba Neighbors is here!!

Do you or someone you know

- Need help with chores or light home repairs?
- Need a ride to a social event, medical appt, or to visit a friend?
- Need a friendly visitor to play a game, chat, help you bake, or go for a walk?
- Need someone to change your smoke detector batteries that are too high for you to reach?
- Take you shopping?

Nashoba Neighbors is a newly formed nonprofit in Bolton, Berlin, and Lancaster designed to help older adults stay in their homes with a little help. Our virtual doors (we have no physical office) are now open and we are here to help! Our pilot program ran in the fall of 2022, and it was a huge success!

We are ready to enroll *members* from our three towns and *volunteers* from just about anywhere.

Please have a look at our website or give us a call to learn more.

978-226-8844

www.nashobaneighbors.org

info@nashobaneighbors.org

Nashoba Neighbors is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation

Financial assistance available for those who qualify

LIONS CLUB SCRAP METAL DRIVE

Saturday, April 1 from 8 a.m. to noon

Clean metal scrap may be dropped off at Cordelia's Farm, or requests may be made for the pick-up of larger items by calling Bob Blair at (978) 838-2985. Fuel must be removed from any power equipment being scrapped. Proceeds from the sale of collected scrap metal will be applied to Lions Club projects, such as scholarships for high school seniors and Halloween pumpkin giveaways to all the students at Berlin Memorial School.

Holiday Farm Updates

Berlin, MA — Holiday Farm accepts EBT/SNAP payments and Massachusetts Farmers Market Coupons.

In the fall of 2022, the farm stand was accepted to the Massachusetts Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), which means that anyone purchasing produce or seedlings from Holiday Farm using EBT is eligible for a fixed reimbursed amount (\$40-\$80) each month depending on the household size. EBT cardholders are automatically part of the HIP program, no signup is required.

The farm stand also offers a 12-week Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) program. Members of the CSA will receive a weekly share of fruits, vegetables and herbs to take home every week for 2-3 people. Signup for the CSA can be done from May 6 - June 3, either in person or online.

Holiday Farm will open for the 2023 growing season on Saturday, May 6, 2023. The normal business hours for the season are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 12-5, and Saturday 10-4 or by appointment. The farm stand is located at 100 Central St, Berlin. Online at www.holidayfarm.us

Federal Extra COVID SNAP Ending

What is COVID SNAP?

During COVID, Massachusetts households have been getting extra SNAP at the beginning of each month to buy food.



Due to federal action, the **last COVID SNAP payment is March 2, 2023.**

How will this impact my SNAP benefits?

Starting in April, you will get only 1 monthly payment. That is your normal benefit. Find the amount on DTA Connect or by calling 877-382-2363.

Reminder: Unused SNAP benefits roll over each month. Change the PIN on your EBT card regularly to protect your benefits.

You may be able to increase your normal SNAP benefits by telling DTA about:

- Medical costs over \$35 a month for anyone in your SNAP household who is 60 or older or has a disability,
- If your housing costs have gone up (rent/mortgage), and
- Child or disabled adult care costs.



Mass.gov/ExtraCOVIDSNAP



The Five W's

(Who, What, Where, When and Why?)

Long before the dormant Methodist church at 19 Carter Street became the community gathering place we know as XIX Carter, its second, post-sanctuary life was spent as a place for auctions run by E. Guy Sawyer, a local man of many talents and interests. In this article, his granddaughter, Berlin native Jane Sawyer, recalls the origin and growth of this well-known and popular local enterprise that drew devoted attendees from all over Central New England.

SAWYER'S AUCTIONS

My grandfather, E. Guy Sawyer, started auctioneering before World War II and continued doing so until his death in 1971. At that time, his sons Guy Jr. and Sid continued the business under the name E. Guy Sawyer and Sons.

The most well-known time and site for these auctions was on Thursday nights at 19 Carter Street, in the building he bought from the Methodists who had previously used it as a house of worship. Guy built a platform in front of the building, facing Carter Street, using it as a sales stage and hung lights in the Maple trees that used to line the street.

The Berlin American Legion Post catered to auction goers out of the kitchen downstairs, selling hot dogs, soda, coffee and ice cream. Previously, Guy had auctioned out of 7 Central Street, which he owned, and also at the 1870 Town Hall and the building behind the gas station on Carter Street. In 1949, he built a garage behind what is now the Clinton Savings Bank branch on the corner of Pleasant and Central Streets. Auctions conducted there were typically held on Saturday nights and were catered by the Women's Club of First Parish Church.

Generations of family and friends worked the auctions with Guy: Sawyers, Bradleys, Jewetts, Guilds, Neuhauses, Sargents, Bartletts, Warren Tansy and many more. He would do charity auctions and church auctions and give the proceeds to them without any charge for his services. The Clinton Rotary Club and the Berlin 4-H Club were among the many benefitting from his generosity. Members of these organizations would do the work of gathering items to sell based on his recommendations.

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday, November 17th, 1945
at 1:00 P. M.
TOWN HALL, BERLIN MASS.

Having rented my store where I have handled antiques for a number of years I have moved the following goods to the above address & will offer same for sale.
Slight top cherry Grandfather's desk, card table, what-not, fiddle back chairs, bed side stands, brass umbrellas stand, andirons, pair of foot stools, hanging shelves, hooked rugs, figurines, guns, Paul Revere lamp, clocks, brass candlesticks, oval gilt mirrors, glass and chinaware, electric lamps, iron kettles, wooden ware, and hundreds of other pieces that I am obliged to dispose of.
Per Order, Claus T. Johnson, Worcester, Mass.
E. GUY SAWYER, Auctioneer, Berlin, Mass. —AS

In the earlier years of the Sawyer Auctions, an article sold was delivered to the successful bidder and cash was paid for it at that time. When the Commonwealth

added a 3% sales tax to each transaction, buyers were given a sales slip and they paid for everything at the end of the auction.

My grandfather, in addition to auctioneering, was also working with his brother in running Tatman and Park Insurance Company in Worcester and eventually owning it.

He was a Berlin Selectman, a State Representative for the 12th District and belonged to many organizations in Worcester County. All these associations connected him



A teenage Kathy Sherman assists E. Guy Sawyer at an onsite auction.

with potential customers for his auctions. He got requests from lawyers and bank trust departments to do appraisals of estates and, sometimes, to sell them at auction. Some auctions were held at homes where their contents were to be sold.

After the war (WW II), my father and mother worked at the auctions. My father, Guy Jr., recorded the selling price and description of all items sold and my mother, Loraine, made change for the buyers. My Uncle Sid auctioneered, as did my Aunt Shirley, after they were married. (As an aside here, Town Meeting Moderator Barry Eager noted, when speaking of the Sawyer Auctions, that Shirley was a professional comedienne, and that some of the most entertaining Sawyer Auctions occurred when Guy and Shirley shared the gavel and fed each other lines as they solicited bids.)

I started delivering auctioned items to successful bidders when I was only about 12 and took my father's job of recording sales when he died in 1988. My cousin Wendy started auctioneering with her father, my Uncle Sid, when her mother Shirley died in 1987. When Uncle Sid died in 1998, Wendy and I continued the family auctioneering business until 2016.

We all had a lot of fun, had some great experiences and met a lot of different people. Not forgotten, though, is the amount of work involved in cleaning out houses and packing and moving furniture for the auctions. We got all the exercise we needed without gym memberships.

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

For a complete listing of the meeting times and places of all Berlin town boards, commissions and committees, go to the "mytowngovernment.org" and click on "berlin, ma"

COA

Tuesdays from 1-2 p.m. Tai Chi with Jeff Cote in COA room 118. Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81287909508> Meeting ID: 812 8790 9508

Saturdays from 9-11 a.m. Senior Yoga COA Room 118. Zoom Meeting Web Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89963068074> Meeting ID: 899 6306 8074

Public Housing Webinar: March 16

Home Instead Webinar: March 24

BERLIN CHURCHES

First Parish Church

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Meetinghouse and Zoom

Family Chapel: 12 noon on Sundays 3/5, 3/12, 3/19

Lenten Labyrinth Walks: at Parish Hall (24 Central St, Central St. entrance) Wed 3/1 and 3/15 6-8 p.m., Sat 3/11 2-4 p.m.

Holy Week Labyrinth Walks: at Parish Hall (Central St. entrance) Wed 4/5 6-8 p.m., Fri 4/7 12-2 p.m., Sat 4/8 2-4 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Agape Meal & Communion: Thurs 4/6 at 6 p.m.

Palm Sunday Service: April 2 at 10 a.m. with Victoria Gaisford in the Meetinghouse (includes Communion)

Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service and more, details coming soon!

Pizza Night Second Friday of each month 5-7 p.m. Meetinghouse (3/10 and 4/14)

St. Joseph The Good Provider Catholic Church

Daily mass: Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 a.m.

Weekend masses: Sat., 4 p.m., Sun., 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

XIX CARTER

Open: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. / Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

MON: TeaTime 1-3 p.m.

TUES: Soup 12-1 p.m. Occasionally **History Matters** 1:30-3:30 p.m.

WEDS: Community Coffee 9 a.m.-Noon

2nd & 4th Wed. of the month **Old Time Music Jam** 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Irish Session 7-9:30 p.m.

THURS: Afternoon Games 1:30-3:30 p.m.

1st Thurs. of the month **Intermittent Fasting Support Group** 3-4 p.m.

FRI: Community Coffee 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Open Studio 9 a.m.-12 p.m. **Fiber Arts** 2-4 p.m.

SAT: Scones 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

1st Saturday of the month **Veg Group** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Old Time Music Jam 2nd and 4th Wed. All acoustic string players are welcome to join us for a round-robin 'Old Time' session of historic tunes and songs from 18th C to early 20th C Appalachia and New England. Come to play or

to listen — bring your lunch if you wish. All are welcome. Suggested donation of \$5.

Intermittent Fasting Support Group 1st Thurs from 3-4 p.m. We are focused on weight loss and the health benefits of fasting. Come for support and education. We take one step at a time to be 1% better. We do require a medical disclaimer and privacy policy to be signed by everyone who would like to participate. This is a lifestyle, not a diet! For questions, please email Sheryl at sherylcrowley@hotmail.com.

Open Studio Fridays, 9 a.m.-Noon, downstairs at 19 Carter. Bring your project and supplies or painting to work on, all mediums (watercolor, oil, acrylic, gouache, etc.), and all levels welcome. Good company, music, and drop cloths provided. If using oil paints please plan on using only low-odor mediums and plan to take mediums associated with oil painting home with you for disposal. There is no formal instruction. Questions or concerns please call or text Ann Marie Hershberger at 781-883-3459. Suggested donation of \$5.

Veg Group Want to explore the dietary world of plants? Plants are wonderful sources of nutrition and protein. Join us for a discussion and to taste some delectable samples. Led by Michele Ricard MD with a certificate in Plant-based nutrition.

Open Mic: Fri. Mar. 10, & Fri. Apr. 14, 7-9 p.m.

All types of music and all ages are celebrated at our supportive, welcoming, and inclusive open mic. Sign up in advance with Host Lori Diamond at LoriDiamondMusic@gmail.com. She and co-host, Fred Abatelli, will support you with a professional sound, and encouragement. Piano available. Suggested donation of \$5. BYOB. Some food and drink are available — or bring your own.

St. Patrick's Day Music: Fri. Mar 17, 7-9 p.m. Come join 19 Carter for a Celtic Celebration, an evening of music, dance, songs, and stories. The concert features the Carter Street Band playing jigs, reels, waltzes, and songs, as well as traditional Irish step dancing performed by Rebecca McGowen, Kara Howgate Mello and their students. The evening will also highlight stories and a slideshow about Ireland, sing-alongs and a women's vocal trio performing 3-part harmonies of traditional Celtic songs. Tickets \$10

Laurel Martin Trio Concert: Sat. Mar 18, 7-9 p.m.

Laurel Martin (fiddle), Mark Roberts (flute, banjo, bouzouki & percussion), and Kieran Jordan (sean-nós / "old style" step dance) perform traditional Irish music with the sweetest of melodies and heartiest of grooves. These artists have collaborated previously in other groups, and have toured together as part of the fiddle ensemble, Childsplay. Tickets \$15

Jazz Jam: Sun. Mar 19, & Sun. Apr 16, 6-8 p.m. Join Ken Parrish and the house band for an evening of Jazz. All instruments and musicians are welcome. Vocalists, please bring your charts. For questions, please email Ken Parrish at ken@parrishworks.net. Suggested donation of \$5.

Off Brand Improv: Fri. Mar 24, & Sat. Mar 25, 7:30- 9:30 p.m. Off Brand Improv! is a troupe of improvisational actors. They're here to make you laugh and have a good time together! Come and see their newly expanded troupe! Ticket \$15

Southcoast Troubadours: Apr. 22, 7-9 p.m. Seth Asser, Neal McCarthy and Ken Richards perform an entertaining blend of blues, folk, country and classic rock tunes with fabulous acoustic picking and 3-part vocal harmonies. Tickets \$15

Upcoming Events Presented by the Berlin Seniors and the COA

The Berlin Senior Citizens Association and Berlin Council on Aging continue their collaboration on the presentation of free events for the enjoyment of all Berlin residents in 2023. Through grants awarded by the Massachusetts and Berlin Cultural Councils, they are excited to be able to present the following shows and productions.

SUNDAY, MAY 21. In a 2 p.m. performance at the 1870 Town Hall, Lynne Kenney Lydick, who portrayed Abby Kelley Foster here last year, returns as Clara Barton. She brings to life the amazing story of this Massachusetts native and medical hero who served as a nurse in the Civil War and subsequently founded the American Red Cross.

Barton is noteworthy for doing humanitarian work and civil rights advocacy at a time before women had won the right to vote. The story of her determination to provide meaningful help to those in need of education, psychological and medical support, sometimes in the face of disrespect by male peers in the roles she fulfilled, makes for an inspiring lesson in the power of persistence in the face of unjustified opposition. In recognition of her immense contributions to

the wellness of others - from the many children she taught, to severely-wounded soldiers she tended to on the front lines of a grisly civil war - she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1973. Her portrait may be seen on the walls of the Great Hall in Mechanics Hall in Worcester.

On SUNDAY, JUNE 11, at 2 P.M., artists of all ages are invited to showcase their talents for the public to enjoy in a **Berlin's Got Talent** production to be held in the 1870 Town Hall or, weather permitting, at the South Common gazebo, near Berlin Memorial School. Details are still being worked out, but stay tuned for more information in the May/June issue of the "Powder House News" and on Berlin Neighbors Connect.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24 will find **Honky Tonk Piano Man Gary Landgren** returning to town for a 2 P.M. performance at the 1870 Town Hall. Last seen here at a pre-Covid Berlin Seniors luncheon at First Parish Church, Gary's rollicking work on the keyboard gets feet tapping and fingers snapping throughout his performance. He is in such demand as a performer that we had to book him eight months in advance of his performance date.

Need a mood lifter? This is it.

Berlin History Maker: Ruea Baum

This is the second in a series of articles we will offer, noting the lives and legacies of Berlin residents who, although not still with us in some cases, have left our lives and our town richer for having shared life's journey with us.

In this installment, Donald Baum recounts the life of his mother, Ruea Wheeler Baum, an Army Nurse Corps veteran, a public health nurse, a prolific knitter and baker, an adept berry picker and, at the time of her death last year, a beloved centenarian with deep Berlin roots.

Ruea was born Ruea Wheeler on Nov 26, 1921. She lived with her parents Amos C and Ethel M Wheeler on a farm in Bolton. After graduating from Hudson High School, she enrolled in Nursing School at Clinton Hospital, graduating as a registered nurse. She interned at Martha's Vineyard Hospital, and answered a call to join the Army nurse Corps.

During that time, her parents moved from the farm in Bolton to a smaller farm in Berlin to "retire", so when she came home from the Army, she came to Berlin. Here she met my father Raymond, and they married in 1947. They built a home next to my grandparents on Highland St., and raised my brother Duncan and me.

Ruea worked as a Public Health nurse in the area for several years, and got to know the townspeople through her work. She also joined the First Parish Church of Berlin, and was very active in the church activities of the time. She was an avid knitter, and would knit sweaters, mittens, hats etc. to sell at the church fairs each fall. She would also bake pies and breads to sell at the bake sales.



Duncan, Ruea, and Donald Baum

While my brother I attended school, she often helped out in the kindergarden class held at the Parish Hall. During the summers, she enjoyed picking berries for Bill Foster at his farm on Randall Rd., and in more recent times at Bill Wheeler's Indian Head Farm on Pleasant St. She also worked at several nursing homes and did some private duty nursing for senior citizens in need of her services.

Even though she was so active, she always found time for her boys, and raised us with good values, taught us about family, and community.

She and my father retired to a home on Crosby Road, where my father died in 1995. My mother subsequently moved to Hudson and finally lived with my wife and me until she passed away last year, at 100 years of age. She truly lived a wonderful and fulfilling life! — Donald Baum

RECIPES FOR HAPPINESS

Here are some recipes to brighten your day from Berlin residents. If you'd like to share favorites of your own, send them to the COA office at 23 Linden Street, Berlin, or to Bob Blair at 28 Summer Road, Berlin and we'll make a place for them in upcoming editions of the "Powder House News".

MARGE LAMY'S SHORTBREAD

Here at 28 Walnut St. we have been making this recipe for as long as I can remember. It was my grandmother's recipe and my mom taught it to Janet and me. My mom labored patiently through the steps by hand and cut them in the traditional shortbread manner. Very meticulously I might add. I miss watching her complete this labor of love. These cookies went everywhere. It was my mom's passion to bake and share her treats. -Sue Giroux

Ingredients:

- 4.5 cups all purpose flour
 - 1 lb. butter (softened to room temp.)
 - 1 cup granulated sugar
1. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. (3 to 5 minutes depending on how soft butter is.)
 2. Add flour gradually, on low speed 1 cup at a time (important or you will be covered with flour). The last half cup may give you trouble during colder days.
 3. Do not over mix or your shortbread will get tough. When you hear your mixer saying, "I can't take it anymore!", turn out a wax paper parchment or counter if you have clean counters.
 4. Push dough together to ensure there are no air pockets. Divide into 4 sections. I usually pat the dough gently into a square and then divide into 4ths.
 5. Roll each section into a log (you can roll them in colored sugar for holidays and special occasions) and wrap each log in wax paper. Refrigerate for 30 minutes or overnight. If you refrigerate overnight you will need to let the dough soften a bit before slicing as it has a tendency to crack when chilled.

6. Slice into half inch slices (I think I do a little under that) I eyeball it. Cut them as you like it, but adjust cooking time.
7. Place on an ungreased baking sheet (I think you can guess why). Then bake for 20 to 22 minutes. It is important for flavor that shortbread has a golden color on bottom.

Note: Refrigerate often when handling in hot weather.

TOM SHARON'S STUFFED ACORN SQUASH

Most of us know Tom Sharon as the Board President at Northbrook Village I or as the King Lion in the Berlin Lions Club. You may not know that, as a young man, he was a cook in his parents' City Diner in Marlboro. Here is a recipe he thought you might enjoy.

Cut bottom and top off squash. Cut in half and scoop out seeds. Cover top with olive oil, salt and pepper. Bake at 400° F for 40 minutes.

1. In Pan sauté:
 - 1 tbsp oil
 - 1 onion chopped
 - 2 med stalks of celery chopped
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 1 tsp pepper
 - 1 tsp rosemary
2. Then add 3 cloves garlic. Sauté
3. Next put mix to the sides of pan and add to center:
 - 1/2 lb. ground sausage
 - 1 granny smith apple chopped
4. Then add and combine to all
 - 1 cup bread crumbs
 - 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese

Remove acorn squash from oven, add mix to center of squash and top with shredded cheddar cheese.

Bake at 400° F for 20 minutes more.

Berlin's 2023 Annual Town Meeting

Spring is upon us and this means Town Meeting is just around the corner. Berlin's 2023 Annual Town Meeting will take place on Monday, May 1st at Berlin Memorial School, 34 South Street. One of the most important articles that residents will vote on is the FY24 budget. There are many competing priorities in our community and this year's budget process has been challenging. I strongly encourage voters to come to Town Meeting and make your voices heard. If you need to register to vote, please visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> or pick up

a voter registration form on the counter outside of the Town Clerk's Office, 23 Linden Street, Room 202. The budget will continue to be discussed at various meetings including the Select Board Coffee Talk on Thursday, April 20th at 6:30 p.m. Please visit <http://mytowngovernment.org/01503> for a full list of upcoming meetings. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at townadmin@townofberlin.com or at 978-310-5919.

- Kristen L. Rubin, *Town Administrator*

St. Joseph the Good Provider to Celebrate 70th Anniversary

The first Mass to be celebrated in Berlin was on Sunday, September 10, 1950 at 9:30 in the Town Hall. The service was presided by Rev. James B. Kennedy the pastor of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in Clinton. Mass continued to be held at the Town Hall for a few more years as fund raising and land was sought.

Seventy years ago on May 4, 1952, the ground was broken, and the cornerstone of the new Mission Church of Saint Joseph the Good Provider was blessed by the Most Rev. John J. Wright, Bishop of Worcester. Bishop Wright broke ground for the construction of a new church at the site on West Street. The groundbreaking and blessing followed a dinner served by parishioners at the Town Hall, attended by more than 500. A procession was formed, and the marchers proceeded down West Street reciting the Rosary along the way. The Berlin Chapel Choir sang hymns, and the gathering was addressed by Bishop Wright, Fr. Carrol and Fr. Kennedy.

The dedication of the new Chapel of St. Joseph the Good Provider took place on Saturday, March 21, 1953, and the first Mass was celebrated. St. Joseph's remained a mission parish for twenty years until August 1st, 1973. Many generations have come and gone in the parish since that first Mass seventy years ago. What a blessing this sacred building has been. And, although many generations maintained it and perhaps have been involved in expanding it and renovating it over the years, its basic foundation is a gift that was given, by the sweat and sacrifices of others long ago — people long gone. Whether they knew it at the time or not, the parishioners of 1952

were not only building this church for themselves, but for us. For years parishioners would pull together for the Chicken Barbeque and eventually this evolved into the Autumn Fair, now known as the Fall Fair.

It wasn't until the 1980s when Fr. Bob Grattarotti was assigned to the parish that a rectory was constructed. A committee was formed under the chairmanship of Carl Wickstrom. Paul Coute launched fund raising; pledges were secured and the groundbreaking ceremony was held on Saturday June 13, 1982. Ray Renzoni was the lead architect and R. F. Woods Construction of Hudson were the builders. Occupancy was ready by that Autumn.

We will be commemorating that first Mass on March 19, 2023 at the 10:45am Liturgy. The Most Reverend Bishop McManus will be our principal celebrant and our 2023 Confirmands will be confirmed at that Liturgy. All are welcome to attend this landmark celebration of 70 years as a parish community. Our eyes look back with thanksgiving. Our eyes look forward in hope. Therefore, with thanksgiving for the past and hope for the future, let us dedicate ourselves and our lives to Christ. Almighty God, we give you thanks for the work you have done in this place. We give you thanks for your love and faithfulness.



Dennis Fearebay, retiring Treasurer /Collector



I recently retired after 20-plus years of service as the Town Treasurer (elected) and 3-plus years as a certified Treasurer and certified Town Collector (appointed). Additional Committees and positions I served on included as one of the of the founding members of the "Ad Hoc Capital Committee" (now an official town committee), Berlin's Election Warden (over 20 years), 17-plus years as a certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) on Berlin's Emergency Rescue Squad, and a state certified town Harassment Officer and Harassment Investigator. I also served on the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) since its inception, the Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC) and handled much of the personnel and benefit administration required to handle the payroll department.

Additionally, my wife Lori and I volunteer Saturday mornings at the "Take It or Leave It" re-cycle shed at the Transfer Station. Of all the tasks I volunteered for that I had the most fun doing was as co-chair on Berlin's Bicentennial Committee, helping to arrange the incredible fireworks display, bonfire and a most memorable parade celebrating the town's 200th Birthday (with much help from many officials and town boards.) The other fun time I had was investigating the source of the legendary trout "Old Bill" and who quietly donated funds to Mr. Blenkhorn helping him raise funds for stocking fish at South Commons for the annual Kids Fishing Derby.

Lori and I are currently completing the restoration of a small farm in Berlin and will be spending our time raising a few unusual farm animals, gardening, and trying to keep up with our six-year-old grandson Trevor. – Dennis



Powder House News

TOWN OF BERLIN, COUNCIL ON AGING, 23 LINDEN ST., BERLIN, MA 01503

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 3
BERLIN, MA 01503

Berlin Public Library

The Friends of the Berlin Public Library are holding a Retirement gathering for Bob Hodge, Saturday, March 25 at 19 Carter, 2-4 p.m. Come and wish Bob well in this next chapter of his life. Refreshments will be available.

Returning to Berlin for a second performance, Tony Funches, who used to work with the Platters, will perform at 19 Carter on June 4. This is a joint offering from The Friends of the Library and the Seniors. Details will be forthcoming. Check at 19Carter.org.

The Friends will hold their Spring booksale in June.

Berlin and Boylston libraries are jointly offering a new online learning resource, Brainfuse for all ages. With your library card you can have access to live tutoring, writing lab, language study, SAT prep, etc. all ages. See the library for details. The Berlin Friends of the Library are supporting this offering.

2023 Berlin Lions Golf Tournament

Date: Saturday May 13, 2023
Time: 8 a.m. Registration. 9 a.m. Tee off.
Place: Berlin Country Club 25 Carr Road Berlin MA 01503
Cost: \$100.00 per player includes golf, cart and dinner.

Gone But Not Forgotten

Timothy Peterson December 2
Gloria Brine December 4
Suzan Khalil..... December 4
Sandra Tufts December 6
Jean Kelley-JoyceDecember 13
Edward Anderson January 2

The Powder House News

The Powder House News has returned to Clinton Offset for our publishing needs. We are glad to be back with Clinton Offset. If you would like a digital copy of the Powder House News, please call us at 978-838-2750.

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